

Spark Gap

Volume 24, Issue 8, August 2007



September is National Preparedness Month

ARRL: Get Ready for National Preparedness Month

September is National Preparedness Month and Amateur Radio

operators are joining a wide variety of national, state and local organizations, including the US Department of Homeland Security, in educating the public about preparing for emergencies. When unexpected natural or man-made emergencies occur, our greatest individual defense is preparedness. Getting an emergency supply kit, making an emergency plan, and identifying preparedness and response resources within our communities are several things we can do to prepare ourselves. This nationwide effort is to encourage individuals and families to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools.

National Preparedness Month is a nationwide effort held each September to encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. National Preparedness Month 2007 is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The goal of the month is to increase public awareness about the importance of preparing for emergencies and to encourage individuals to take action.

During September, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the National

Preparedness Month Coalition will urge all Americans to take some simple steps to make themselves and their families better prepared for emergencies including:

Get a Kit - Get a kit of emergency supplies that will allow you and your family to survive for at least three days in the event an emergency happens. The kit should include basic items like water, food, battery-powered radio, flashlight and a first aid kit. Go to www.ready.gov for a complete list of recommended supplies.

Make a Plan - Plan in advance what you and your family will do in an emergency. Your plan should include a communications plan and address sheltering-in-place and evacuation. Go to www.ready.gov for more information and templates to help get you started.

Are You Ready?

Be Informed - Learn more about different threats that could affect your community and appropriate responses to them. Go to www.ready.gov for more information about natural disasters and potential terrorist threats and visit www.ready.gov for more information about the emergency plans that have been established in your area.

Get Involved - After preparing yourself and your family for possible emergencies, take the next step: get training in first aid and emergency response and get involved in preparing your community. Citizen Corps provides residents with opportunities to prepare, train and support local emergency responders. For more information or to get involved visit www.citizencorps.gov to find your local Citizen Corps council.

*The Official
Newsletter of the
Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club*



Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org

Supper Club Celebrates 12th Anniversary



by Matt Payne, KB9UJE

It's often been stated that the best way to reach a ham's heart is through his stomach. And while this is a generalization, it can't be denied that food is a very effective medium for bringing people together. Whether it's the family dinner table or the company barbecue, food can be a compelling method of bringing people together, and for proof of this, one has to look no further than the Thursday Night Supper Group.

The story of the Thursday Night Supper Group began on a Wednesday night, over twelve years ago, when Joe Rogers, Barbara Rice, J.R. and Kay Osborne, and Dan and Betty O'Connell met at the Olde Williamsburg Inn in Nineveh, Indiana. At first it was little more than a small gathering of friends. But the group decided to make their Wednesday night outing a habit, and the Wednesday Night Eaters Group was born.

From the start, the Wednesday Night Eaters Group was an informal affair. Rather than get bogged down with administrative details, as clubs sometimes are, the Wednesday Night Group vowed to keep the gatherings fun and unencumbered. The restaurants were rotated weekly, both to eliminate boredom and reduce the drive for some of the more remote members. For Columbus residents Larry and Becky Turner, the group went to The Sirloin Stockade, then located on National Road. For Greenwood residents Dave and Paulette Wendt, the group often found itself in Greenwood, in such restaurants as Jonathan Byrd's Cafeteria and Ponderosa Steakhouse. The group has met (and dined) in restaurants in seven counties, covering an area of several hundred square miles. If one drove to the location of every restaurant, one

after another, they would have covered the distance between Indianapolis and Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Behind the scenes, the planning and administration of the supper group hasn't changed much since its inception. Joe Rogers still schedules the restaurants several months in advance, taking suggestions and feedback from group members, as well as experiences with particular restaurants in the past, whether good or bad. It should be noted that not all restaurants can handle a group the size of the supper group. Issues like parking, handicap accessibility, and location all have to be taken into account. Member feedback is also important.

Everyone has their favorite restaurant, and while the group does try to rotate from time to time, it's impossible to please everyone every week. Once the restaurants are scheduled, Joe arranges for the locations to be posted on the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club's website and sends out reminder emails to the regular attendees. Then a couple of days before the group is scheduled to arrive, Joe has to confirm that dining arrangements have been made with the restaurant in question. No one wants to be waiting in the lobby for the next table of thirty to open up!

It's hard to put ones finger on the exact reason the eaters group is so popular, but there's no denying it. The highest attendance on record was at the Olive Garden in 2003, when 42 attendees spanned the entire length (and then some) of the dining section. It's hard to predict the exact number of people who will attend, since factors such as weather, location, family events, and economic factors all play an active role in determining attendance. But one thing is for

continued on next page

Officers

President:
Meredith 'JR'
Osborne, KB9HSE

Vice President:
Dave Daily,
KB9LOT

Secretary:
Carol Osborne,
KC9CFK

Treasurer:
Brenda Haler,
KC9EBL

Repeater Trustee:
Jay Chrisman,
AA9YP

Spark Gap Editor:
Bob LaGrange,
N9SIU

Supper Club

cont. from previous page

certain, people come for the fun and conversation, as well as the good food.

The Wednesday (and later Thursday) night group has had it's happy and sad moments.

Our group has seen several marriages, including Joe and Barb Rogers, J.R. and Carol Osborne, and Dave and Kathy Wendt.

And we've been heartbroken to see longtime attendees such as Al Soltis, Paulette Wendt, and Kay Osborne pass away. But through the triumphs and heartbreaks, one thing remains true. The eaters group is a family unto itself, regardless of the day of the week in which it meets or the restaurant in which it dines.

If you've been a part of the eaters group in the past, or want to join in now, we would really like for you to attend our special get together this coming Thursday Night, as we once again travel to where it all began, returning to The Olde Williamsburg Inn in Nineveh, Indiana. Think of it as a twelve year anniversary for the group which started as anything but a group. Think of it as a chance to renew old friendships. Or think of it as a chance to get to know your fellow amateurs better. But regardless of what you think, please think about attending this Thursday. We'd look forward to seeing you!

Note:

Congratulations Supper Club on your 12th Anniversary! Although MARC is a public service club, it's off-line events and gatherings of this type that warms our hearts and stirs our imaginations so that we can devote our spare time to serving the community. Many amateurs have joined us for dinner and found their way to our club thus keeping the club strong and long-lasting. Thanks, KC9GCH

Election of Officers

We will be holding election of officers in September 2007. If you wish to run for office, please plan on attending the August 18th meeting. Nominations will be held during the meeting. Voting and election of officers will take place on Saturday, September 15th at the annual club/picnic meeting.

Remember, to be nominated for office, club dues must be paid in full for 2007.

As a forewarning, please remember that new officers will need to have W8ISH, Jack Parker, take their photo for use in our packet material and for the website.

Greenwood High School Marching Band Invitational

MARC will again be assisting with this spectacular event by providing emergency communications and assisting with parking.

The event will be held on Saturday, September 22, 2007.

Those who wish to volunteer may do so by contacting Bob LaGrange, N9SIU. His e-mail address is N9SIU@yahoo.com.

This is your opportunity to provide a service to the community. Linda Harshbarger, KC9GCH, has three extra orange vests for those of you who did not purchase an ARRL Emergency Communication vest but needs to be visible. Linda will have these at the August meeting. After the event these should be returned to the club station room so that they may be used at future events.

**WA9RDF
Repeater**

**146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL
Tone**

**Weekly Net
Every Sunday
at 7PM EST**

***Tune in to hear
the ARRL
Newsline!***

*The Mid-State
Amateur Radio Club
sponsors a weekly
traffic and social net
on our repeater. The
net begins at 7:00
p.m. local time, and
features local news,
announcements, and
NTS traffic, as well
as rebroadcasts of
Amateur Radio
Newsline.*

Weekly Net

Make sure to check out our weekly net, held every Sunday at 1900 (7 PM) local time.

This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills.

Newsline is often played, allowing net participants to get the latest news about the amateur radio hobby.

For those without the license or means to check in over the air, we offer an email check-in. Just send an email with your name and contact information to

netcontrol@midstatehams.org and we will record your check-in!



Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club

P. O. Box 836

Franklin, IN 46131

www.midstatehams.org

317.887.2558

Spark Gap

2007 Schedule of Events

Public Service Events and/or Educational/Testing Opportunities

AUGUST 2007

18 **MARC Meeting - 8 AM**

VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

18 **August Sprint Triathlon, Indianapolis**

To volunteer or for more information contact Mike Palmer N9FEB at www.indyhams.com

19 **Lafayette Hamfest, Lafayette, IN**

Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds; Talk-in 147.135 PL tone 88.5Hz

SEPTEMBER 2007

15 **MARC Meeting - 8 AM**

VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

22 **Greenwood High School Marching Band Invitational**

To volunteer or for more information contact Bob LaGrange, N9SIU

OCTOBER 2007

7 **46th Annual Hoosier Hills Hamfest 2007**

Lawrence County 4H Fairgrounds, Bedford, IN

20 **MARC Meeting - 8 AM**

VEC Testing immediately following the meeting (approx. 9:30 am)

Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN

21 **Indianapolis Marathon**

To volunteer or for more information contact Mike Palmer N9FEB at www.indyhams.com

31 **Halloween Goblin Watch**

Details at October MARC meeting. To volunteer contact one of the officers of the club.

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.